

## DEFINITIONS OF FISHING GEAR

The Council's March options include a proposed new gear restriction for commercial fisheries off California which would require circle hooks when fishing by any means other than trolling. Should this option be implemented, Council staff recommends it be handled in the annual regulations (Table 1) under the areas in which it applies. Unless new information or a new proposal emerges during public review, Council staff believes last year's gear definition, as provided below, should be adopted for the 2000 regulations.

The March options also include a new proposal for allowing California recreational anglers to use no more than two hooks. As in the past, the special restriction can be placed in Table 2 of the annual regulations under the areas in which it is in effect. Unless new information or a new proposal emerges during public review, Council staff believes last year's gear definition, as provided below, should be adopted for the 2000 regulations.

### Commercial Troll Fishing Gear

#### 1999 Regulation

(Allows trolling or mooching off California.)

**Troll fishing gear** for the fishery management area (FMA) is defined as one or more lines that drag hooks behind a moving fishing vessel.

In that portion of the FMA off Oregon and Washington, the line or lines must be affixed to the vessel and must not be intentionally disengaged from the vessel at any time during the fishing operation.

### Recreational Fishing Gear

#### 1999 Regulation

(Allows trolling or mooching and only one rod and line north of Point Conception when fishing for or possessing salmon.)

**Recreational fishing gear** for the FMA is defined as angling tackle consisting of a line with no more than one artificial lure or natural bait attached.

In that portion of the FMA off Oregon and Washington, the line must be attached to a rod and reel held by hand or closely attended; the rod and reel must be held by hand while playing a hooked fish. No person may use more than one rod and line while fishing off Oregon or Washington.

In that portion of the FMA off California, the line must be attached to a rod and reel held by hand or closely attended. Weights directly attached to a line may not exceed four pounds (1.8 kg). While fishing off California north of Point Conception, no person fishing for salmon, and no person fishing from a boat with salmon on board, may use more than one rod and line.

Fishing includes any activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking or harvesting of fish.

PFMC  
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